REMARKS

This is in response to the Office Action mailed on <u>August 12, 2004</u>, and the references cited therewith.

Claims 15 and 20 are amended, no claims are canceled, and claim 25 is added; as a result, claims 15-25 are now pending in this application.

§*103 Rejection of the Claims*

Claims 15-24 were rejected under 35 USC § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Linstead et al. (U.S. 5,548,753) in view of E-commerce ("E-commerce: Computer Associated announces CA-Openingres/ICE, providing Web enabled access to corporate data" Dec. 11, 1995).

Claims 15 and 20 are amended. The claims have not been amended to overcome any prior art but only to clarify the claims of the present application.

Linstead describes a passive localized system where information is **written/pushed** to the database for reporting. In particular, "one or more 4th Dimension application programs or 4th Dimension **externals writes a record into the predetermined storage location** or table upon the occurrence of a predetermined event <u>within</u> the database system**. For example, in the case where the database system implements an inventory and purchasing system, a purchase order may be **prepared within the database** using a database application program or external. After preparation, the purchase order is provided electronically to the preparer's supervisor for authorization. In this example, communication of the purchase order to the supervisor is the predetermined event in reporting takes place." (Col. 7, line 16-19). The system in Linstead passively receives data from the 4th Dimension application programs or 4th Dimension externals for reporting. Changes take place within the database and there is thus no need whatsoever in Linstead to retrieve any status information elsewhere as all that is needed to trigger an event is in the database itself.

Claim 15, as amended, of the present application includes the limitations of "status information retrieval means for **automatically retrieving** said status information from the common carrier information system via the network and **updating the status information** in the storage means." In claim 15 of the present application, the status information is <u>generated externally</u> by the common carrier information system and <u>not internally within the database</u> as in Linstead. Accordingly, claim 15 includes the limitation of **"status information retrieval means for automatically retrieving said status information** from the common carrier information system via the network and **updating** the status information in the storage means."

The above limitations in claim 15 of **automatically retrieving** said status information is not described or even suggested in Linstead. However, the Office Action submits that the following sections in Linstead discloses this limitation:

<u>Col 5, lines 2-9</u>

The AOCE portion 34 allows data and other information to be conveyed on the connecting network 20 (FIG. 1) among the processing systems of the network 10. The AOCE portion 34 includes a messaging portion 36 for controlling receipt, transmission and formatting of messages between the processing system 24 and other processing systems, and a digital signature portion 38.

<u>Col. 7, lines 15-47</u>

As envisioned by the preferred embodiment of the present invention, **one or more 4th Dimension application programs or 4th Dimension externals writes a record into the predetermined storage location or table** upon the occurrence of a predetermined event **within the database system**. For example, in the case where the database system implements an inventory and purchasing system, a purchase order may be prepared **within the database** using a database application program or external. After preparation, the purchase order is provided electronically to the preparer's supervisor for authorization. In this example, communication of the purchase order to the supervisor is the predetermined event. After the database application program or external conveys the

purchase order to the supervisor, **the application program or external writes a record to the predetermined storage location**. The daemon process processing system, running in a loop comprising steps 62 and 64, detects this record and, in response, automatically informs the supervisor that the purchase order is awaiting attention. The daemon process processing system 18 (FIG. 1) automatically prepares an electronic mail message and conveys the electronic mail message to the supervisor to provide an indication of the occurrence of the event. Similarly, after the supervisor has authorized the purchase order, for example by attaching a digital signature to the purchase order, **the application program or external again writes a record to the predetermined storage location**. Again, the daemon process processing system which is running in the loop comprising steps 62 and 64 detects this record and automatically prepares an electronic mail message to the preparer of the purchase order and any other users who may be interested in the event. For example, notification might be provided to users responsible for accounting and purchasing.

From the above it will be appreciated that the Linstead system is a passive system into which data is written.

Clearly, the above references in Linstead do not describe or even suggest the limitation of claim 15 of "status information retrieval means for **automatically retrieving said status information** from the common carrier information system via the network and **updating the status information** in the storage means." The E-Commerce limitation does also not describe or even suggest this limitation.

The Office Action also concedes that Linstead fails to teach "status query means for **automatically obtaining status information** relating to a commerce-related event from a common carrier information system via a network" and which has now been supplemented with the phrase " the common carrier information system generating the status information" to clarify the claim. The Office Action however submits that this limitation is described in the E-Commerce reference. Applicant however strongly disagrees. The E-Commerce reference at best

merely describes the same functionality of Linstead. The E-Commerce reference and Linstead
are cumulative references.

At best, the **E-Commerce reference teaches "automatically notifying users"** but does
not teach or even suggest the limitation of "status query means for **automatically obtaining
status information** " in the context of claim 15 which **status information is then forwarded to
an interested party**.

In view of the above it is submitted that Linstead does not describe or even suggest the
following limitation:

> status information retrieval means for automatically retrieving said status information
> from the common carrier information system via the network and updating the status
> information in the storage means.

Further, the E-Commerce reference describe the following limitation as claimed in the
context of claim 15:

> status query means for automatically obtaining status information relating to a
> commerce-related event from a common carrier information system via a network, the
> common carrier information system generating the status information.

It is thus submitted that claim 15 is allowable. As claims 15-19 are dependent upon claim
15 they are also allowable.

Claim 20 includes the limitations of:

> automatically obtaining status information relating to a commerce-related event
> in response to a status query to a common carrier information system, wherein the status
> information is received from the common carrier information system over a network; and
> storing the status information in a status database relating to the commerce-related
> event, the common carrier information system generating the status information.

AMENDMENT AND RESPONSE UNDER 37 CFR § 1.111
Serial Number: 09/426,573
Filing Date: October 25, 1999
Title: METHOD FOR SUPPLYING AUTOMATIC STATUS UPDATES USING ELECTRONIC MAIL

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In view of the remarks above, it is submitted that claim 20 is also allowable. As claims 21-25 are dependent upon claim 20 they are also allowable.

CONCLUSION

Applicants respectfully submits that the claims are in condition for allowance, and notification to that effect is earnestly requested. The Examiner is invited to telephone Applicants' attorney at (408) 993-0317 to facilitate prosecution of this application.

If necessary, please charge any additional fees or credit overpayment to Deposit Account No. 19-0743.

Respectfully submitted,

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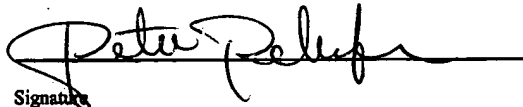(408) 993-0317

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